

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2131

FOR EUR/RPM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XB
SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS REPORT ON SITUATION IN EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN ASIA

1. WE ARE TRANSMITTING TEXT OF NATO EXPERTS REPORT
ON THE SITUATION IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN ASIA BY
AIRGRAM. THIS CABLE FORWARDS PROPOSED TALKING
POINTS FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S USE WHEN THE REPORT IS
REVIEWED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC), SCHEDULED TENT-
ATIVELY FOR APRIL 27, 1977. IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS WE
PROPOSE BELOW, WE THINK THE COUNCIL WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN HEARING US VIEW ON OUR PLANS
FOR A DRAWDOWN OF GROUND FORCES IN SOUTH KOREA AND
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN FORTHCOMING US-
VIETNAMESE TALKS IN PARIS. ACTION REQUESTED: WE
WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY OOB APRIL 26:
A) DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THE SUGGESTED
TALKING POINTS AND THE EXPERTS REPORT;

B) ANY INFORMATION ON US GROUND FORCE REDUC-
TIONS IN THE ROK THAT WE CAN SHARE WITH THE
ALLIES; AND

C) ANY LATE DEVELOPMENTS IN FORTHCOMING US-SRV
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TALKS IN PARIS THAT MAY OCCUR PRIOR TO
APRIL 26.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT TALKING POINTS:

CHINA:
WITH REGARD TO CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY, WE
AGREE WITH THE POINT IN PARAGRAPH 10 THAT ANTI-
SOVIETISM IS STILL THE CORNERSTONE OF THAT POLICY.
PEKING CONTINUES TO BELIEVE NO GOOD CAN COME FROM

DETENTE OR EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS MBFR AND SALT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOTED SINCE LAST FALL THAT CHINESE MEDIA HAVE TAKEN A MORE UPBEAT VIEW OF WESTERN RESOLVE, POINTING TO SIGNS OF GROWING WESTERN SUSPICION OF THE SOVIET UNION WHICH THEY HOPE WILL BE REFLECTED IN STIFFER WESTERN BARGAINING POSITIONS.

INDIA:

CONCERNING INDIA, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN INDIA AS ITS NEW GOVERNMENT SHAKES DOWN. THE JANATA PARTY AND ITS ALLIES ARE A MIXED LOT, PRINCIPALLY UNITED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO MRS. GANDHI RATHER THAN ON A COMMON PROGRAM. WE THINK THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES--BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN --WILL TAKE SHAPE ONLY GRADUALLY, PERHAPS WITH GREATER STRESS ON RURAL AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE DOMESTIC ARENA, AND PURSUIT OF A MORE GENUINELY NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY DUE TO THE KNOWN RESERVATIONS OF SEVERAL OF THE NEW LEADERS ABOUT CLOSE INDIAN-SOVIET LINKS.

END TEXT.

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